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REPLY

The Examiner rejected claims 10-17 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by King.

King Jr., US 2003/0054905, is not prior art under 35 USC §102(b). King Jr. was published March 20, 2003. The present application has an international filing date and effective US filing date of January 22, 2003 and claims the benefit of a prior Italian application filed September 17, 2002. Therefore, King does not describe the invention in a printed publication more than one year prior to the date of application.

Even if King Jr. were considered prior art, it does not disclose the invention as claimed. King Jr. discloses a ball transmitter 40 embedded under the outer skin of the ball 12. Sensor/transmitters 80 are placed within cones 82 within both of the field end zones 202. Out-of-bounds cone mounted sensors 114 are optionally placed along the field boundaries.

King Jr. does not disclose a **passive** sensor located inside an inner or internal bladder of an inflatable ball as claimed in the present invention. Presumably in King Jr., the ball transmitter 40 is placed under the outer skin where it could be dislodged or damaged due to a shock or hit to the ball. Additionally, the ball transmitter 40 in King Jr. is not a passive sensor and includes a ball computer battery chip 44.

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(King Jr. paragraph [0046]). King, Jr. also discloses that the ball computer chip 44 and the ball fiber wires 46 are placed between ball 12 leather layers and secured with a special glue, to be connected to several and preferably four ball transmitters 42 distributed over the ball 12 outer surface. (King Jr. paragraph [0040]).

The active nature of the ball transmitter 40 disclosed in King Jr., together with the tenuous placement could result in the ball transmitter 40 becoming damaged resulting in a lose of signal. Additionally, because the ball transmitter 40 in King, Jr. has a ball computer battery chip 44, it would necessarily have to be accessible for replacement of the battery or power source. This will result in the further likelihood that the ball transmitter 40 could be dislodged or damaged during play. The present invention realizes these problems in that a sensor if damaged could result in a hampered function to signal when the football has crossed the goal line. (Published Application, page 8, lines 2-4)

The present invention improves upon the prior art, in particularly King, Jr., by providing a **passive** sensor that is light in weight and **placed inside or completely within the thickness of the inner or internal bladder** for protection. This improves the reliability of the system and assures that a goal will be accurately detected. Since the location sensor is **passive**

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it does not have to be removable so as to replace a power supply or battery. Therefore, the passive location sensor can be completely encased in the thickness of the bladder assuring that it is securely held and protected. The passive location sensor is preferably formed in the inner bladder during manufacture of the inner bladder. This is particularly important in view of the constant shock that the inflatable ball is subjected to during play.

King, Jr. does not disclose or mention an inner or internal bladder. Additionally, King, Jr. does not disclose a **passive** sensor. Therefore, the present invention as claimed, comprising an inner or internal bladder with a passive sensor formed completely inside the thickness of the inner or internal bladder can not be anticipated by King, Jr. Additionally, there would be no basis or motivation for one skilled in the art to form a passive sensor completely within the thickness of an inner or internal bladder during pressing. An active ball transmitter 40 and ball computer chip 44, as disclosed in King, Jr., that is not accessible would be rendered inoperative due to lack of power within a relatively short time.

Claim 15 has been maintained and recites that a passive sensor is located inside the bladder and weighs less than ten grams.

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Claim 17 has been amended to more specifically recite that the passive sensor is formed completely inside the thickness of the inner bladder during the phase of pressing the inner bladder. Support for this amendment can be found in Fig. 8 of the published application, showing the sensor completely inside the thickness of the bladder, and page 7, line 19 of the published application indicating that the sensor is fixed during the phase of press.

Claim 18 has been added, and more specifically recites the method of detecting a goal and the method step of molding a passive sensor weighing less than ten grams completely inside the thickness of the internal bladder during pressing of the internal bladder.

Claim 19 has been added, and more specifically recites the method of manufacturing an inflatable ball used in detecting a goal and the method step of molding a passive sensor weighing less than ten grams completely inside the thickness of the internal bladder during pressing of the internal bladder.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the present application enter this Amendment and Reply and indicate allowable subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

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